

ICM-III PEDIATRICS 2008: HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

The primary causes of adolescent morbidity and mortality in this country directly result from risk-taking behavior. Unfortunately, many providers fail to adequately ask screening questions necessary to identify adolescents at risk. In order to establish effective communication, providers of adolescent health care need to become comfortable and confident in their ability to discuss issues such as sexuality, drug and alcohol use, and interpersonal conflicts. The “HEEADSSS” interview is the standard format used to obtain this relevant history.¹ (See the HEEADSSS outline included in this packet.) You will perform a HEEADSSS interview on a volunteer adolescent at Albert Einstein High School. By the end of the activity, you should develop an effective and comfortable approach for screening adolescents for risk-taking behaviors. This activity should increase your confidence and effectiveness in interviewing and communicating with adolescents in your clinical years.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES (ORIENTATION AND HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITY)

1. Recognize the importance of performing a HEEADSSS interview during all adolescent health visits.
2. Perform a HEEADSSS interview on one adolescent at the high school. (You will not be asked to record the history you obtain.)
3. Identify the most effective strategies for performing HEEADSSS interviews in the adolescents you will care for in your clinical years.

Check the schedule to confirm your assigned date and time for the high school experience. Please come prepared by reviewing these learning objectives and suggested HEEADSSS questions before the activity begins, as it is expected that you will not bring any paperwork in with you during the interview. You will not need your white coat nor your “black bag” (stethoscope, otoscope, etc.).

Thank you and HAVE FUN!!

1. Goldenring, JM and Rosen DS. Getting into Adolescent Heads: An Essential Update. *Contemporary Pediatrics* 2004; 21:64.